



## AIM STATEMENT ON HOUSE MEDICARE DRUG PLAN

AIM applauds the work of the Chairmen of the House Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce Committees to improve and strengthen Medicare and urges bipartisan support for the proposal. Based upon the summaries we have seen, we are pleased that the bill includes efforts to modernize benefits and to help ensure the program's survival for further generations of beneficiaries.

AIM believes all Medicare beneficiaries should be offered prescription drug benefits as an integral part of Medicare health coverage. AIM believes the bill is a first step toward the longer term comprehensive reforms necessary to ensure the program provides adequate benefits, including prescription drug coverage, preventive benefits, and new medical technologies, to current and future beneficiaries. AIM is pleased that the new benefit utilizes proven, private sector health benefit management techniques in lieu of price controls. The House bill appears to take significant steps toward resolving the problems of inadequate payments and excessive regulation of private sectors plans and providers participating in Medicare+Choice.

AIM also believes the principles of beneficiary choice inherent in the Medicare+Choice program can serve as a foundation future comprehensive reforms that will further strengthen and improve the Medicare program.

6/11/02

*AIM is a coalition of organizations representing seniors, doctors, hospitals, small and large businesses, medical researchers and innovators, insurance plans and providers, and others dedicated to improving and strengthening Medicare for all Americans. AIM seeks to ensure that all senior citizens have more health care coverage choices, better benefits (including prescription drugs), and access to the latest in innovative medical practices and treatments.*